Modernizing Ship Breaking Units

3019. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to modernize ship breaking units all over the country;

(b) whether Government will improve safety and conditions of workers in such places;

(c) the specific measures proposed to encourage ship breaking industry by giving it incentives to improve safety and environmental concerns; and

(d) the other steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The ship breaking activity is purely a private venture and the private operators provide necessary facilities for efficient operations and also the required modern equipments for safe and quick cutting of ships. In Alang, Gujarat, where 90% of the Country's ship breaking activity takes place, Gujarat Maritime Board is providing roads, electricity, sanitation and other facilities.

(b) The Government agencies are continuously monitoring as well as improving the safety related aspects and also the conditions of workers in such places.

(c) and (d) Ship breaking permission is issued only to the ship breakers who are authorized by the State Pollution Control Board for Management and handling of hazardous waste under the provisions of hazardous waste (Management and Handling) Rules. To ensure safety of the workers, use of personal protective equipments such as mask, hand gloves, helmet, safety shoes etc. by the workers has

been made mandatory. Training is also being imparted in safety as well as handling of hazardous waste to workers working in ship breaking yards.

Facilities to workers in Ship Breaking Industry

3020. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ship breaking industry is increasing in our country at a very fast pace;

(b) whether it is a fact that the commensurate facilities have not been provided to the workers who are working in very unhygienic conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Adequate facilities like drinking water, electricity, roads, medical facilities, sanitation complexes, post office, banks, police stations, labour office/factory inspector, STD phones, asbestos & glasswool landfill, industrial & solid waste landfill, Municipal solid waste landfill, waste segregation godowns, supply of Personal Protective Equipments, facilities for entertainment, training-cum-welfare complex etc. have been provided to improve the safety and ensure hygienic living conditions at shipbreaking yards.